

June 19, 2020

John Wiley, Chairman
Conservation Commission, Town of Walpole
135 School St.
Walpole, MA 02081

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Conservation Commission,

The Walpole Trails Committee is writing to express our interest in a project before you, titled "Residences at Pinnacle Point," currently proposed under the comprehensive permit law (Map 19, Parcels 182 & 183).

There is an important trail here that connects the Riverwalk Condominiums and 18 acres of open-space known as The Pinnacle.

The significance of preserving this trail and its easement cannot be overstated. Here are three reasons the developer should avoid any impediments on this important trail:

1. It connects the Endean Trail and the Pinnacle Trail, allowing hikers to complete a loop along the Neponset River and around Bird Pond and Plimpton Pond.
2. It allows hikers to continue through a tunnel under Washington Street, which ConCom had the vision to preserve when the Riverwalk was built. Hikers in this direction would find themselves at the foot of the historic Bird Clocktower and would be able to continue into the Town of Norwood without crossing a busy street. Both the Norwood Trails Committee and Walpole Trails Committee are actively engaged in extending and connecting our trails. Impeding access along the river would go against these efforts and would not be in the best interest of both our communities.
3. Pinnacle Trail has historic value. The part of the trail in question was reportedly a former gaslit promenade. This entire area is an active trail relied on by many residents for recreation, and managed to this day by the Walpole Trails Committee.



In addition to preserving the trail, we are requesting the following two improvements:

1. Developer should add one additional access point directly from the new roadway they are proposing off Pinnacle Drive. Doing so would allow direct access to the river.
2. Developer should improve and upgrade the spot known colloquially as Circle Seats. This is a scenic overlook abutting the river. Although the concrete seats and concrete pad are overgrown and in need of revival, the infrastructure is in good condition and has great potential as a neighborhood amenity, perhaps as a kayak launch and/or scenic vista.

Thank you for your time and commitment to conserving Walpole's outdoors. Don't hesitate to reach out to the Trails Committee if you would like to meet on the trails to explore this area together.

Sincerely,

Gary Riggott, Chairman
Glenn Maffei, Vice Chairman
Mike Brennan
Virginia Ryan
Sandhya Malur